set up some nuclear power units of varying capacity in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Government have approved setting up of two nuclear powers stations of 2x235 MWe each at Kaiga and Rawatbhatta. Work has already commenced on these two projects. It is also proposed to start work on 4 more units of 235 MWe and 6 units of 500 MWe during the Seventh Plan.

Short fall in investment in public and private sectors

303. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the possibility of a shortfall in the sphere of investment, both public and private sectors in the last 2 years of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure the growth rate projected in the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) The likely level of investment in the five year period of the Seventh Plan is being assessed in the context of the mid-term appraisal of the Plan. Agricultural performance will be the critical factor in realising the growth target. Hence special efforts to expedite irrigation projects, vigorous implementation of special programmes to increase productivity in rice production in eastern region and in oilseeds production, measure to ensure the required growth in fertiliser consumption, production and distribution of seeds, and generation of electricity through better performance are being taken. The policy thrust in remaining years of the plan will be to raise the agricultural production so that overall grawth of 5 per cent is achieved with corresponding balance in sectoral structure.

Regional passport office at Ahmedabad

304. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad has inadequate staff causing delay in the issuance of passports;

(b) what is the sanctioned strength of the staff, the actual strength at present and whether the vacancies are likely to be filled up;

(c) what is the number of applications for fresh passports that are pending clearance for more than three months and what is their percentage to total number of applications; and

(d) whether inadequate office accommodation is one of the reasons for inefficiency, causing delay and harassment to the people and if so, whether Government propose to shift Regional Passport Office at a better place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Most delays are on account of delayed police verification reports from State police authorities, and some due to incomplete information furnished in the application forms.

(b) The present sanctioned strength vis-a-vis actual strength of officers and